

Jerome R. Katz

October 22, 2001

Dear Jerry:

I waited a while to calm down after I read your kind letter of 7 October 2001. Thank you for using your discretion.

I remember a similar situation where an item at auction was substituted by a visitor or by the auctioneer before the sale so that it could be bought by another person or the visitor without normal compensation.

I hope you were able to obtain lots of nice things for yourself.

I may contact Mrs. Weiss to see if she retained the primary item I was interested in as it was not in the auction list.

My best to you,

Eric P. Newman

To: Jerome Katz

November 16, 2001

From: Eric P. Newman

Your article in Equilibrium (No.4, p. 2628) indicates you are not aware of the references to Frederick Myers in several portions of our book on coin scales. One scale of his is known and described. Dan Owen's book has no tie to any scale maker and merely lists a similar name. Even the gold ingot matter raises eyebrows.

Do you an Email address? I thought you might want to know the above.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Mr. Jerome R. Katz

January 2, 2002

Dear Jerry:

The problem presented in your December 28, 2001 letter is very new to me and fascinating. I am really challenged by it and I will be glad to work on it. George Mallis never asked me about it.

Before I begin I suggest you reweigh the weights and obtain more accurate weighings. For example the combined weight of the \$3 and \$2 show 10 grams and the \$5 weight is listed as 9 grams. Some others are not in proportion to each other.

This could not be for American gold coins because of the denominations but might be for a pure gold weighing.

They would not be for a silver coin or bullion scale because the values on the weights are too high.

The values might be for some other material or commodity sold by weight.

Could F & S stand for French and Spanish gold coin rather than the name of the maker? These countries had identical fineness in their gold coins as compared to England and Portugal.

Happy New Year. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Jerome R. Katz

March 11, 2002

Dear Jerry:

I am sorry I had to neglect your project because I had too many research projects to keep up with. I think I have good news for you.

By the Act of Feb. 9, 1793, the U.S. passed a law regulating foreign coin and provided that after July 1, 1793 foreign coin for three years should pass as money within the United States as legal tender at specified rates. The Act was renewed several times so as to expire April 10, 1809. It provided: "Of gold coins of France, Spain and the dominions of Spain of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains and two-fifths of a grain of the actual weight thereof."

This is so very close to your weighings that I believe F & S means France and Spain. I find that 1 gram equals 15.4323 grains and that there can be no other use for your weights except for buying normal, worn, filed or clipped gold coin of any denomination of France or Spain by a bank or dealer and automatically knowing their value in dollars.

I hope this helps you as it makes sense to me as to what the weights are for. You are fortunate to have found such interesting items.

Thrive,

Eric P. Newman

Jerome R. Katz

April 2, 2002

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for keeping me informed as to the weights.

Does your source wish to sell his "second" set? Maybe his family were making these items long ago and had trouble selling them these items and got stuck with a remainder. Offer him the same as you paid for your set, add a reasonable commission for you and get them for me. I deserve it for doing all the research. Perhaps the reason he told you he had another set is because he wanted to sell it

Thanks,

Eric P. Newman